

Quote

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WITHIN THE WEEK

The 90-day extension in negotiation period between the steel industry and the union will work to advantage of both mgt and labor. At any rate, that is the feeling of both groups and is the real reason the truce was affected with so little difficulty. Neither wishes to negotiate in the current indecisive atmosphere.

On the face of it, this looks like a relatively easy nut to crack. There seems to be a differential of only about 2% between wage increase mgt will offer and minimum union leaders are willing to accept. Catch, however, is in some of the "extras" such as health and welfare items workers are likely to demand. Spring strikes are fairly certain to be staged on these considerations rather than wages. Reduction in living costs and hint of tax cuts is making labor's wage-increase platform increasingly unstable.

Meanwhile, House and Senate race to have labor legislation shaped up before coal truce expires Mar 31. It is going to be pretty close. We think now that House will probably pass a revised Case bill, rush it to the Senate. But that is by no means a final solution. Senate Labor Committee, as presently constituted, is pretty conservative. Only in an emergency of gravest proportions would truly restrictive labor legislation have a chance.

TAXES: You can view with considerable skepticism statements

such as TABER's mid-wk pronouncement that House-Senate budget committee has found way to pare \$2 billion from single gov't dep't, and that the group is shooting for total cut of \$4½ to \$5 billion in the TRUMAN budget. No details have been given, but trouble is that wherever economies are proposed, dislocations are sure to follow. An example is found in the \$2 billion asked for public works. Republicans jumped on this item gleefully. But they soon heard from suppliers who wrote wrathfully that drastic cut would destroy their mkt for surplus wares. Actually, there's grave question that labor and mat'ls will be available for such ambitious program, but reaction of producers is indicative of what happens when you try to pare a budget. You can't cut without drawing blood somewhere.

EXCISE TAXES: Congressional action in extending these "nuisance" taxes isn't necessarily final. There's fair prospect of some adjustment later. Of course purveyors of luxuries want taxes rescinded, but even more they want some definite action. Uncertainty has hurt their business badly.

RENT CONTROL: Extension is one of the few sure bets. It may go as far as June 30, '48. But landlords will be given some relief, possibly a flat 10% increase in rental rates.



SHIFTING SANDS

Continuance of excise taxes may result in some interesting side-lights. Example: If liquor taxes hold, as now seems moderately certain, and sugar becomes somewhat more plentiful, you're fairly sure to see substantial bootlegging of illicit alcoholic beverages. . . . Altho portal-to-portal pay suits appear to be gradually washing out (as we forecast), business interests are tardily taking action to put their case before public. St Louis Chamber of Commerce is taking newspaper pages to explain issue to community and its workers in pocketbook terms. . . . *Iron Age* says major auto producer is reported to have rec'd telegram from a N Y firm offering 600,000 tons new steel sheets this yr, at approx 3 times current mkt price. Similar offers are rumored in major industrial centers, indicating an active black mkt, but so far no responsible source has produced actual proof of del'y on such quotations. Even if tempted, auto producers probably couldn't pay the price.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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Pres HARRY S TRUMAN, renewing request for a Nat'l Science Foundation to coordinate "and encourage the research activities of the country": "While freedom of inquiry must be preserved, the federal gov't should accept responsibility for fostering the flow of scientific knowledge and developing scientific talents in our youth." 1-Q

Bishop TITUS LOWE, of Methodist Church, addressing Oxford Fellowship (ministerial students) at De Pauw Univ: "Some religious men think bldg a sound body is 'all in a pig's eye.' They think the Lord will take care of that, but the Lord won't. . . No matter how brilliant a mind you have, you'll be handicapped without health." 2-Q

Chicago gunman to Miss KATHERINE STRATON, clerk in hosiery shop: "A yr ago I'd have taken the nylons; today, I'll take the money." (He got \$18.) 3-Q

MARY HALLIDAY, 5-yr-old daughter of the stage star, MARY MARTIN, currently appearing in a London musical, upon being presented to King GEO: "If he's a king, where's his crown?" 4-Q

WM E RICHARDSON, N Y lighting expert, suggesting that tired women should demand pink lights in crowded buses and subways: "Pink reacts like benzedrine on most males' jaded chivalry. Under pink lights even men carrying groceries have been known to rise and reach for a strap. If a woman can't get a seat under the pinks, she never will. She may as well get off and walk." 5-Q

CLARK GABLE, currently starring in a much-toned-down version of *The Hucksters*, best-selling novel of the ad agencies and radio networks: "All we're gonna do is poke some good, clean fun." 6-Q

W J LOCKER, Seattle, Wash map publisher, predicting famous Mt Rainier, now 14,406 ft in height, will shrink to nothing by yr 5,362,-451 A D: "Roughly, it'll take place in the summer of that yr. At that

"MAY WE
Quote
YOU ON THAT?"

time, Mt Rainier will be a mole hill." 7-Q

MICHAEL M NISSELSON, pres, Amalgamated Bank of N Y (affiliate of Amalgamated Clothing Workers union), explaining why his institution is financing purchase of paintings and sculpture at 4%: "Art has a degree of permanency that other things don't have. I believe that anyone who wants to buy art is a better credit risk than would-be purchasers of refrigerators or cars." 8-Q

STEVE COCHRAN, young film actor from Laramie, Wyo, expressing disappointment in Hollywood girls: "The only exercise most of them get is putting on their lip-rouge and taking off their earrings. Why, those I know haven't the strength to lift their own options." 9-Q

JOHN MASON BROWN, book and drama critic: "There are no longer novels of manners because there are no manners in our modern world. You rarely encounter the words 'ladies' and 'gentlemen' in print. Oh, you may see 'ladies' posted on an occasional portal, but they don't even spell out the masculine term." 10-Q

O B ANDREWS, Miami, Fla Negro charged with bigamy, tendered timely argument in own behalf: "Judge, I'm guilty. But I can't see where it's wrong for a man to have 2 wives when it's all right for a state to have 2 gov's." (ANDREWS rec'd 12 mo's.) 11-Q

CHALMERS (SLICK) GOODLIN, 24-yr-old test pilot of Bell XS-1, nation's first rocket plane: "The jet

and rocket business is coming along so fast it's fantastic, but I think that within 5 yrs they won't need pilots for these jobs—they'll all be radio-controlled." 12-Q

JOHN HEFFINGER, Omaha, Neb, 5-yr-old kindergarten pupil, vetoing teacher's suggestion that class inspect trees and shrubs "to see what Jack Frost did last night": "That's all caused by warm air currents contacting cold currents. Then the moisture condenses and leaves those ice crystals on the bushes and trees. There ain't no Jack Frost!" 13-Q

OTIS L WIESE, editor-in-chief *McCall's*: "Women want a homing pigeon for a mate, not a lame duck. By and large, women don't want to get out of the home. They want men back in the home, sharing the living to be found there." 14-Q

Dr J E M THOMSON, Lincoln, Neb, pres American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, reporting "no iron curtain" during tour of medical colleges and centers in Czechoslovakia last summer: "We moved as freely as we did in the U S. . . We constantly looked for evidence of Russian intervention or influence, but never found it." 15-Q

Maj-Gen'l PHILIP B FLEMING, Office of Temporary Controls chief: "It is problematical how many of the houses built in '47 will be within the financial reach of war veterans." 16-Q

JERRY COLONNA, radio and film comedian, appraising \$1 million production *Duel in the Sun*: "They should have used live ammunition." 17-Q

Rear Adm JAS L HOLLOWAY, Jr, sup't U S Naval Academy: "Navy has made no allowances to superior football players. The standards for them are the same as for any midshipman." 18-Q

ANN DORAN, film actress who rec'd 2,000 owl figures from fans who thought this was her chief hobby, appealing to Alaska fan who's

sending 10-ft totem pole with an owl as chief figure: "I just don't have room for it. That's why I'm 'owling for help." 19-Q

Rep A L MILLER, of Neb, assailing "slovenly immigration methods": "A great many of these foreigners are not the sort of citizens we want. They aren't like the fine people who came here 50 yrs ago to make homes for themselves and became our finest citizens." (Gov't Immigration Service recently admitted that approx 200,000 foreigners are in U S illegally.) 20-Q

Dr WM A O'BRIEN, prof of graduate medicine, Univ of Minn, urging married couples "start having their families at once": "Don't let the old argument of being tied down affect you. Remember, the sooner you're tied down the sooner you'll be thru being tied down. When the family is raised you'll still be young enough to enjoy yourselves." 21-Q

WM BENTON, Ass't Sec'y of State, on Russian-inspired propaganda campaigns against U S: "Probably the greatest obstacle to foreign response to our leadership is fear of economic collapse in the U S." 22-Q

HARRY B FRENCH, pres Minn Amusement Co, Minneapolis, largest theater chain in Upper Midwest: "A drummer (in the old days) had to make all the sound effects with the pictures—train whistles, galloping hooves, everything. (He) wasn't picked for his musical ability, but for how much noise he could make. I still don't think drummers are musicians." 23-Q

Mrs EUGENE MEYER, writer on social problems and wife of owner *Washington Post*: "Many of our film producers are on a par with dope peddlers. Both take advantage of humanity's lowest instincts for the purpose of making money." 24-Q

Dr ADOLPH MEYER, foremost U S psychiatrist and director of world-famed Phipps Clinic (Johns Hopkins Hospital): "I would say to every individual that to be mentally healthy he must *unclutter*. Inventory and reorganize your mind." (Quoted in *Everybody's Wkly.*) 25-Q

MARGARET CULKIN BANNING, noted novelist: "(For a more livable U S) hates and prejudices have to be dissolved in every state and community in the only liquid which will dissolve them—one distilled from acquaintance, friendship and working together." 26-Q

CLARE E HOFFMAN, of Mich, Republican Congressional Committee chairman, on Reorganization act eliminating janitorial staffs of committees: "It looks as if it's going to be up to the chairman or the committee staffs to keep the offices swept out and the wastebaskets emptied." 27-Q

Gov JAS E FOLSOM, of Ala, explaining installation of inter-office communications system with exec office force: "Being a Baptist, I'm in favor of a little more close communion around here." 28-Q

JAKOBINA THORDORSOTTIR, recently of Reykjavik, Iceland, encountering icy blasts in Scranton, Pa: "Iceland was never like this!" 29-Q

ROBT C GOODWIN, director U S Employment Service: "I believe employment will remain high thru-out the yr. There is no indication in the labor mkt of, a drop in total employment." 30-Q

American Library Ass'n report: "No one reads war books. The reaction against them is emphatic. Except for the ret'd serviceman who is looking for an acc't of his unit, or the person who wants to read the experiences of a mbr of his family, these books stand on the shelves." 31-Q

Gen'l A A VANDEGRIFT: "There is no doubt that an armed force costs money, but so does the upkeep of fire dep't." 32-Q

Dr JOHN HUMPHREY, of Canada, head of Division of Human Rights, UN Secretariat: "We need an internat'l bill of rights because the dignity of men is a matter of internat'l concern. . . There must be provision for enforcement (of these rights) by internat'l action because it is generally recognized that, in the final analysis, human rights must be protected by some law that is higher than the law of the state." 33-Q

PAUL ROBESON, Negro singer and actor, who plans to abandon theater and concert stage for the next 2 yrs to "talk up and down the nation against hatred and prejudice": "The next 2 yrs will be critical and important yrs for our country. . . It seems that I must raise my voice, but not just by singing pretty songs." 34-Q

JOS STALIN: "The danger of a war is not real." 35-Q

MICHAEL FLYNN, Cook county clerk, Chicago, recommending increase in marriage license fees from \$3 to \$5 to help balance his '47 budget: "When a man gets to that stage, he'd even pay \$10. . . It costs \$15 to file suit for a divorce." 36-Q

Sen JOS H BALL: "The Nation's present labor policy is a direct result of the power-drunk arrogance and stupidity with which employers dealt with unionization a few decades ago." 37-Q

Mrs LESTER HOWARD, Elmore City, Okla, after oil gusher on husband's farm brought promise of wealth to family: "We've lived so long without anything that I just can't imagine what real comfort is like. But I'm willing to find out." 38-Q

LUCY HITTLE, Editor

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Droke House



MINING THE MAGAZINES

How to Avoid Work — Wm J REILLY, *American Magazine*, 2-46.

Most Americans have the ridiculous notion that anything they do which produces an income is work—and that any thing they do outside "working hrs" is play. There is no logic to that. As we define work in career counseling, it is doing something you don't enjoy...

A doctor who has felt the pulse of life and the still of death does not feel he is working when he must leave a party to deliver a baby. A carpenter is not working when he builds a cottage he is proud of. . . A dept head is unconsciously acknowledging his creativeness when he points with pride to one of his best salesmen and says, "Why, when I got hold of Eddie, he was nothing but a bum."

Thos Edison, in his wisdom, worked out a simple plan for discovering the interests of new employees. He sent beginners around the lab's and shops on tours of inspection. Each day they were to make reports, with suggestions and criticisms. "Many valuable ideas came to us from these reports," says Chas Edison, son of the inventor. "But even more important, we learned what it was that genuinely interested these men."

When Jack & Heintz gave recognition to and sought to satisfy the desires of each "associate," they responded so enthusiastically that it was often a problem to get them out of the plant when their shifts were over.

To some people, doing what you want to do seems almost sinful. But, believe me, it is not sinful.

The greatest satisfaction you can obtain from life is your pleasure in producing, in your own individual way, something of value for your fellow men. That is creative living!

ADVICE—1

A workman, busily engaged in installing glazed tile squares on the front of a new bldg, was interrupted by a "sidewalk sup't."

"Young feller," the observer commented. "You ain't doing that right."

"I know it, Pop," conceded the workman. "I told the boss I didn't know much about it, but he said it was all right, just go ahead and start the job, and pretty soon some damned fool would come along and tell me how it ought to be done."

—True.

CO-OPERATION—2

Those who worry about how much we will have to "give up" in practicing unity with other nations might well study the record of science, taking the Nobel Prize winners as a prime example. Fleming and Florey are native Britons. Dr Chain is a German born biochemist who fled his native country in '33 because his religion did not suit the Nazi "supermen." A special grant from Rockefeller Foundation in America made it possible for Florey and Chain to explore possibilities opened up by Fleming's work almost 20 yrs earlier. The Oxford lab'y in which they worked boasts researchers, scientists and technicians of every nationality, every religion and every social background in the world. All of them have "given up" a bit of their own individuality, for the lab'y is hardly a place for prima donnas. But the world has rec'd, in ret'n, a safe, quick cure for over a doz serious ailments that have weakened, incapacitated and killed countless thousands every yr.

—Churchman.

CRITICISM—3

In looking for somebody to criticize, don't turn your head away when passing a mirror.—STRICKLAND GILLILAN, *Your Life*.

DIVORCE—4

People wonder why there is so much divorce, but think over this little fable written 10 yrs ago by Olive Schreiner: "I saw a woman sleeping. In her sleep she dreamt Life stood before her and held in each hand a gift—in the one Love, in the other Freedom. And she said to the woman, 'Choose!' and the woman waited long; and she said, 'Freedom!' " When women can earn

a pay check they become less and less amenable to the type of bondage found in most homes.—*Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

They DO say . . .

Some interesting points on war, gleaned from *Cincinnati Enquirer*: World War II was only 1/3 as serious a drain on total U S manpower as was Civil War. . . It was slightly less safe to be a U S Army officer than to be in the ranks in World War II. Officers accounted for 13% of battle deaths; their proportionate strength, 10%. . . Curtis Pub Co is currently testing sale of 25¢ *Bantam Books* thru subscription agents. Sold in units of 10 (\$2.49) they're mailed direct to buyer. . . Simon & Schuster, publisher of *RIPLEY Believe-It-or-Not* books, toy with idea of a *Believe-It-or-Not* magazine. . . *Architectural Forum* has revived its annual forecast, a wartime casualty. They predict \$20 billion bldg mkt this yr. . . Inflation note from Hy GARDNER, *Parade*: Stage money has now gone up from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per \$1000.

DRINK—Drinking—5

Cars and bars mean stars and scars.—*Defender*.

EDUCATION—6

College education pays real dividends, according to recent study by Committee on Education of the U S Chamber of Commerce. Committee examined records of more than 55,000 native white males between the ages of 35 and 44 who rec'd wage and salary incomes only for the yr 1946. Of those who reached the \$5,000 or over income bracket, 50% had attended college or gone beyond.

Most noteworthy section of the country in this respect was the South where approx 63% of those in the \$5,000 and up bracket had attended college.—*Science Digest*.

FAME—7

Whenever Nunnally Johnson has any illusions about flimsy fame, he always reminds himself of one story:

A famous foreign actress once asked Billy Rose for \$1200 a wk. Billy said okay she could have it,

if she'd walk with him from Times Square to the Battery and just one person recognized her. Nobody did.—SIDNEY FIELDS, quoted by IRVING HOFFMAN, *Hollywood Reporter*.

FRIENDSHIP—8

One does not make friends; one recognizes them.—Swanson *News-ette*.

GARDENING—9

Gardening is simply a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it.—*Banking*.

HEALTH—10

In the light of vitamin-conscious today, we wonder how mankind actually kept going before we moderns happened along. Consider that orange juice was once used in the West Indies to polish floors; pineapples first sold in London for \$20 apiece; in the days of Henry VIII, vegetables were considered unfit for humans and were fed to pigs; lemons were used by the ancient Romans to keep away moths.—*Ladies' Home Jnl*.

HUMAN NATURE—11

Today we are more practical in the care of our Chevrolets than in the care of our personalities. Mr J Doke won't allow his car to be run at high speed until a mechanic clears up that faint chug in the region of the left front wheel bearing. At the same time, Mr Doke takes no constructive action about his extreme, shifting moods and insomnia that may be his warning of an impending mania—depressive psychosis.—ED RITTER, "Roots of Mental Illness," *Forum*, 12-'46.

INDUSTRY—12

The payroll of a single industry employing 150 men supports on the average 24 professional men, 32 retail stores, 390 occupied homes, \$500,000 in retail sales, 320 cars and services for them, a 20-room school house and 14 teachers, and farm products from 6,600 acres.—*Sterling Sparks*.

INTERNAT'L RELATIONS—13

The discussion with men and women of other countries of matters of common interest, the giving and receiving of hospitality, the joining in games and competitions and the visits paid to foreign countries, all serve to bring home to us the great truth that in the simple things of life there is far more to

unite than to separate the mbrs of the human race.—CLEMENT ATLEE, in *Think*.

LABOR—Compensation—14

The personnel man in a large organization insisted on keeping a large bowl of goldfish on his desk. When a friend asked why, the harassed looking individual repl'd: "Well, frankly it's a novelty to have something around here that opens its mouth without asking for a pay increase."—*Christian Science Monitor*.

MARRIED LIFE—15

Argentina will subsidize marriage, \$625 per couple. "That," quips *Omaha World-Herald*, "will keep 'em happy until they get down to discussing what they're going to do with the money."

ORIGIN—"Tickled to death"—16

The early Chinese, when they captured a prisoner, placed his feet in a wooden lock. They then tickled the unfortunate prisoner's soles. From this mode of torture, we derived the expression, "Tickled to death."—ROB'T E BERK, *Reader's Scope*.

For Sale: Silver Linings

"I dare not marry; the future is so dark and unsettled."—WM WILBERFORCE, 1790.

" "

"There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair."—WM PRITT, 1800.

" "

"In industry, commerce and agriculture, there is no hope."—BENJ DISRAELI, 1850.

" "

"I thank God that I am spared the ruin that is gathering around us."—DUKE OF WELLINGTON, on his deathbed, 1851.

—*Harper's Magazine*. 17

PERSISTENCE—18

Failure is the path of the least persistence.—*Associated Grocers*, Kansas City.

PHILOSOPHY—19

No man should ever try to become a practising philosopher until all his children have good jobs and his wife is running a profitable tearoom or beauty shoppe.—*Construction Digest*.



CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE

In Detroit, a few wks ago, Art Radenbaugh, top-flight designer of automobiles and aircraft, created on his drawing board a new type of conveyance termed the helicopter bus. In appearance it was not unlike the conventional bus; but instead of rolling along the highway, it was planned to fly at an altitude of 50 ft; land on any level field.

This seemingly radical departure presented a fitting climax to what was definitely a Helicopter yr. In Chicago, experiments in mail pick-up and del'y by helicopter proved so successful that Postoffice Dep't has endorsed permanent establishment of the service and is furnishing Civil Aeronautics Bd with operational data to be made available to independent carriers. United Air Lines is believed interested.

In Canada, Intercity Airline Co has completed a test model helicopter and Canadian postal authorities have indicated interest, provided cost can be brought down to around \$20,000 thru assembly-line economies. (A Sikorsky model, widely used in U S tests, costs more than twice that sum.) Cost is only real obstacle to big-scale helicopter development and there's good deal of confidence that mass-production techniques can do a great deal to bring costs in line.

Cleveland already is assured a helicopter "taxicab" service. A line carrying air pasengers from airport to downtown points has been recommended for certification by CAA examiners. . . In Buffalo, Bell Aircraft has developed a "float-helicopter" that can land, take off from water. It is 1st helicopter with floats to receive commercial license from CAA. . . In a recent test for Dairymen's League, a mbr flew milk from his Pa farm to League's new Manhattan plant, landing easily on the flat roof.



AVIATION: Recent invention for aviators is light that fastens to ear lobe, shows by its intensity the amt of oxygen circulating in the blood. Thus aviators at high altitudes can tell when they need more oxygen. (*Good Housekeeping*)

" "

FIRE PROTECTION: Radio fire alarm system for every hotel room. When button is pressed, all radios automatically become part of centralized public address system thru which alarm is sounded, guests and employees alerted and instructions given. (*Capper's Wkly*)

" "

HORTICULTURE: Endrop, chemical spray that keeps apples on tree for 10 days to 3 wks beyond normal dropping time, is being produced by Shell Oil Co, Inc. Enables growers to spread picking over longer period.

" "

For air express shipment of easily bruised fruits, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co has developed a "Ham-mock pack" that seals each one in Pilofilm bubble cradled in cardboard. (*Newsweek*)

" "

INVENTIONS: Now on mkt: 1st low-priced (\$97.50) wire recorder with microphone, 7,200-ft spool of wire; plays for hr, and may be used repeatedly. Reproduction claimed superior to phonograph records in fidelity. (*Financial Post*)

" "

MEDICINE: Treatment of Rocky Mountain spotted fever by new drug, resulting in "dramatic clinical improvement" of treated patients, has been announced by the Delaware Hospital research specialists, in Wilmington. Drug is para-amino-benzolic acid. (*Grit*)

" "

PHOTOGRAPHY: Combination camera and picture projector takes photographs which it can show on screen 15 sec's later. (CEDRIC ADAMS, *Minneapolis Tribune*)

PROTOCOL—20

Augusto Rosso, one-time Italian Ambassador to the U S, arranged a dinner for the famous maestro, Toscanini, to honor him in a fitting manner. His Excellency invited the whipping cream of Washington official society. In fact, he invited so much rank that when the guests sat down to dinner, poor Toscanini, the guest of honor, was sitting nearly in the pantry with waiters tripping over his illustrious feet. The Toscanini was one of the world's greatest musicians, he was an outlander to official Washington society without protocol rating.—PAGE H DOUGHERTY, "Vanity-on-the-Potomac," *N Y Times Magazine*, 1-19-'47.

REALISM—21

Our neighbor's children are intense realists. They respect their father more for his skill at bldg the best snowman in the block than for the Phi Beta Kappa key he wears on his watch chain.—HARLAN MILLER, *Better Homes & Gardens*.

SABBATH—Observance—22

The stern and rock-bound morals of new England censors have provided many a headache for publishers and booksellers. But the movies get their share of it, too. *This Wk* reports that the Mass board of censors issued this order to a motion picture distributor: "Eliminate scene showing man kicking girl."

As a footnote to this injunction they added: "This elimination req'd only for Sunday showings."

SAFETY—Safe Driving—23

There are no highway policemen in the interior of Guatemala but if you drive with a heavy foot you'll get into trouble just the same. When your car leaves a certain town the time is stamped on a ticket. If you arrive at the next town too soon, you've broken the speed laws.—*Capper's Wkly*.

SPEECH—Speaking—24

"Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff,

And nudge me when I've said enough."—*Toastmaster*.

STEREOTYPE—25

When visiting Berlin in 1938, I found in the Haus Vaterland, amusement center of the city, an

American Room among the rooms decorated to represent typical nat'l scenes. What sort of life was depicted? A cowboy setting, with murals and accoutrements which, tho seriously done, utterly caricatured cowboys and America. Were citizens of this country really to be thought of in such terms, it would be a matter for real resentment.—ALFRED G FISK, "Stereotypes in Intercultural Education," *Common Ground*, Winter '47.



I have discovered a diplomatic way to prompt the ret'n of borrowed books. On the fly leaf, below my name, is written "It gives me pleasure to know that the following friends have enjoyed this book." Beneath this I write the name of each person to whom the book is loaned and the date the book is borrowed. It is amazing how soon they are ret'd.—*Sunset*.

THRIFT—26

Two men were boasting of the merits of their respective wives. "My old woman," said one, "won't enter a green-grocer's shop. She buys all our vegetables straight from the farm, so they are fresh."

Repl'd the other, "My old woman does better than that. She went to the mkt gardener and insisted on choosing a squash that was still growing. 'How much for this one?' she says. 'Eightpence,' says he. 'Too much,' she says. 'What's the price of this little 'un?' 'Fourpence.' 'All right, I'll have it,' she says. and pays for it on the spot. Then she says, 'Don't pull it now, I'll call for it this day wk.'"—*New England Almanac*.

VISION—27

When Porter Sargent, famous as an educational adviser and author, is accused of being an iconoclast, he replies: "So is every lover of life, like the gardener who ruthlessly destroys the weeds that something may flourish that he optimistically considers of greater human value."—*Nashua Cavalier*, hm, Nashua Paper Co, Nashua, N H.

They Laughed at These—And Maybe You Did, Too!

In his book, *Pike's Peek or Bust* (Doubleday, \$2), EARL WILSON, who calls himself the Saloon Editor of the New York Post, has set down what he purports to be the Best Laughs of the '45-'46 season. These witticisms were, for the most part, garnered by Mr Wilson in his tours of Manhattan night spots. Reduced to the printed page, you may wonder (as we frankly have) why anyone should find the remarks especially amusing. However, the fact remains that a great many persons did laugh inordinately at the time. Perhaps there's a lesson here for those to whom the creation of laughter is serious business. At any rate, here are a few excerpts for your consideration.

Milton Berle said: "My radio sponsor threw me a big dinner—but it didn't hit me."

Henry Nadell got a fan letter: "You're the greatest comedian in the world. Please excuse the crayon, as they won't let me use anything sharp in this place."

Franchot Tone, in *Hope for the Best*, told Jane Wyatt, "I knew a fellow who always wanted to meet a girl who already had a fur coat and her appendix out."

After seeing Vera Zorina in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, a sailor said: "That's the most wonderful show I ever saw that I didn't understand."

Bea Lillie, to a pigeon she saw on her window sill: "Oh, hello! Any messages?"

A State Dep't official was speaking with 2 Russians, who explained where they came from. "Me Lenin-grad," said the 1st Russky. "Me Stalingrad," said the 2nd. "Me Harvard grad," said the American.

In England they revived this story. A GI, wondering what "cre-matory" meant, wandered in, asked, and was tossed out. "Gosh," the soldier said in a puzzled tone, "all I did was ask him, 'What's cook-in?'"

When Bob Hope told Bing Crosby that Sinatra was a singer who comes along once in a lifetime, Bing mused, "Yeah, but why does he have to come along in my life-time?"

Zac Freedman said: "She was only a build in a girdled cage!"

Louis Sobol wrote: "A is for Atom, and if it's turned loose, the 25 other letters will be of no use."

Jimmy Edmundson: "The Pentagon bldg is Texas with washrooms." Max Shulman said: "It it weren't for the Communists, Communism would be more attractive."

A Britisher got razzed for his accent at the Club 18 by Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, and ans'd: "I spent my younger yrs at Eton."

"That's just it," Maxie repl'd, "I spent mine at Starvin'."

Rose Marie's Durante-ish crack about Dick Stabile's band: "Dey eat music, dey sleep music—I wish dey could read music!"

To an opening-night crowd, dressed within an inch of the personal-finance companies, Milton Berle nifted, "I was never so surprised in my life—I saw a woman here in a cloth coat!" Introducing a Negro trio, he said, "These boys have a lot of polish. They'll sell it to you right after the show."

Baseball! Comedian Willie Shore described the Dodgers as the Marx Bro's with bleachers, and claimed that umpires were the only guys making money at the Brooklyn games—they got a nickel back on each bottle.

Fred Allen said, "They still have pickets in front of the Warner Bro's studios. They're afraid Jack Benny will get in there and make another picture."

Kenny Baker: "We found a wonderful sublet ap't. We can't move in until April. It's a coalbin."

Jan Murray went to his doctor's office and saw a sign on the door, "11 to 1." "So I went home," he said. "I want better odds on my life."

"What are nylons," asked Johnny Bothwell, "but the answer to a maiden's pair?"

Sid Ascher told of a Floridian visiting Calif who picked up a watermelon and sneeringly asked, "Is this the biggest grapefruit you can grow?" The Californian shouted, "Stop! You're crushing that raisin!"

After listening to some of her female friends dishing the dirt, Thyra Samter Winslow toasted them with, "Here's mud in your rye."

A hated Broadway character asked for cheese, and a waiter inq'd, "Do you want that on a sandwich or in a trap?"



Edison's Electric Lamp

Feb 11 marks the 100th anniv of the birth of one of the greatest inventors of the 19th century, Thos Alva Edison. While not considered a profound scientist, he was acclaimed a genius at incorporating scientific principles in practical devices and held over 1200 U S patents, besides foreign ones. Among his more important inventions are the phonograph, telephone for long distance transmission, carbon telephone transmitter and incandescent electric lamp.

The following excerpt is from the N Y Times, Sept 5, 1882, describing the early use of the "Edison electric lamp."

It was not until about 7 o'clock, when it began to grow dark, that the electric light really made itself known and showed how bright and steady it is. Then the 27 electric lamps in the editorial rooms and the 25 lamps in the counting-rooms made those dep'ts as bright as day, but without any unpleasant glare. It was a light that a man could sit down under and write for hrs without the consciousness of having any artificial light about him. There was a very slight amt of heat from each lamp, but not nearly as much as from a gas-burner—1/15th as much as from gas, the inventor says. The light was soft, mellow, and grateful to the eye, and it seemed almost like writing by daylight to have a light without a particle of flicker and with scarcely any heat to make the head ache. The electric lamps . . . were as thoroughly tested last evening as any light could be tested in a single evening, and tested by men who have battered their eyes sufficiently by yrs of night work to know the good and bad points of a lamp, and the decision was unanimously in favor of the Edison electric lamp against gas.

A doctor who puts in a good deal of time at the Royal Victoria Hospital reports that the other day a patient stepped up to him, opened his mouth and pointed down his throat.

"Say 'Aah,'" said the doctor.

"I am sorry," said the patient, drawing himself up rigidly, "but I don't speak any English."—*Montrealer*.

" "

Attending a church bazaar, Abraham Lincoln tendered a \$20 bill to pay for a bunch of violets. The lady at the booth, making no attempt to ret'n any change, gushed, "Oh, thank you, Mr Pres."

Lincoln reached down from his great height and gently touched the lady on the wrist, saying, "And what do you call this?"

"Why, Mr Pres, that is my wrist. What did you think it was?"

"Well," drawled Lincoln, "I thought it might be your ankle. Everything is so high around here."—*Journeyman Barber*.

" "

A guest finally said good night. "I hope I haven't kept you up too late," he added.

"Oh, not at all," repl'd the polite host. "We would have been getting up soon, anyway."—*Boston Globe*.



WISECRACKS OF THE WEEK

WEDDING BELL: What a girl will ring if you give her enough rope.—*Dorchester (Wis) Clarion*.

" "

HOLLYWOOD GENTLEMAN: A guy who steps on his cigaret so it won't burn your rug.—*HELEN FORREST*, radio singer.

" "

Any girl can handle the beast in a man if she's cagey enough.—*JACK H LOWE*, *Sidney (Neb) Telegraph*.

" "

Alimony is the price of the fifth freedom.—*Judge*.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

CLINTON CAMPBELL
Engineer

A very richly dressed and impressive gentleman walked into one of N Y's better fur shops in company with a beautiful blonde. He wanted to be shown mink coats. When his companion had chosen one of the finest, the man gave his name, an address in a distant city, and a number of bank and other references.

"We will be in Atlantic City over the wk-end," he continued. "We can pick up the coat later, when you have had an opportunity to check on my credit."

The store investigated, found that the man was overdrawn at 3 banks, that no store in his home town would trust him for a dime. When, the following Monday, the customer appeared, the store mgr, as diplomatically as possible, tried to explain the situation. The other brushed it all aside with a gesture. "Oh, I didn't expect to get the coat. I just dropped in to thank you for a perfectly marvelous wk-end."

Two small boys had taken the clock apart to see "what made it tick." After examining each part very carefully, they put the clock back together again.

During the night their father was awakened from his sleep when the clock began striking. It struck 117 times without stopping. "Cindy," he said to his wife, excitedly, "you'd better git up. Durn if it ain't later than I ever knowed it to be."—*GLENN HECK*, *Tracks*, hm, C&O Ry.

" "

Two English magistrates were summoned for exceeding the speed limit. Since there was no other magistrate present when they arrived in court, they agreed to try

one another. One went to the bench and the other to the witness box. The latter pleaded guilty and was fined 5 shillings. Then they changed places. When the 2nd magistrate also pleaded guilty his companion said: "Now these cases are becoming much too common. This is the 2nd we have had this morning. You will be fined 30 shillings."—*PAUL ARNOLD*, *For Lawyers Only*.

" "

In a schoolroom in one of our large cities a kindergarten teacher was telling the children about Geo Washington. In illustration, she displayed a large picture of Mt Vernon.

"This," she said, "is the house where Geo Washington lived."

The children, all apt dwellers, gazed intently at the picture. One, more impressed than the others, asked with great interest, "What floor?"—*GRACE M WILLIAMS*, *Reader's Scope*.

" "

Dr Julian Huxley, the British biologist now working with the U N Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, was at a London reception for a visiting American legislator. He introduced himself: "I'm Dr Julian Huxley from UNESCO, sir." The guest of honor clasped his outstretched hand and said: "Glad to meet a representative of a small but valiant country that contributed so much to an Allied victory."—*LEONARD LYONS*, *syndicated col*.

" "

Ever since it became known that the late Rudolph Valentino's famous house, "Falcon's Lair," had been purchased by Gypsy Buys, a long-time admirer, she has been flooded with offers of Valentino relics. The most peculiar offer was contained in this telegram: "If you want to be sure you are always as close as you can be to your idol, owning his house isn't enough. We offer you the crypt next to Valentino in the mausoleum."—*ANDREW B HECHT*, *Motion Picture*.

Quote

